



Australian Bureau of Statistics

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Summary

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A View From The Top

A View From The Top

From Michael Tindall, the ABS WA Regional Director

As 2007 draws to a close, it is timely to reflect on the events and outcomes that have been achieved. My first year with the ABS as Regional Director in Perth has been challenging and also very enjoyable. As well as the enthusiastic and professional support within the ABS, and the WA Office in particular, I have appreciated the important contributions made by a wide variety of people across the WA government and community.

I am very pleased to see progress made on collaborative projects including the development of the WA Indicator Framework System (WAIFS); the establishment of a node on the National Data Network (NDN) for the Telethon Institute of Child Health Research (TICHR); and the development of synergies between the NDN and the Shared Land Information Platform (SLIP).

In addition, 2007 has been momentous for the release of the 2006 Census. This included Census data released free on the ABS website through products such as QuickStats, MapStats, Census Tables and Community Profiles. This will be followed, in 2008, by the release of CData Online and Table Builder.

I wish to thank the members of the Statistical Policy Committee (SPC) and the Economic

and Social Statistics Consultative Groups (ESCG/SSCG) for their contributions throughout the year. The input of these groups is vital for ensuring that the highest state and national statistical priorities are identified and addressed.

Four cross-jurisdictional themes - Local Level Demography, Local Level Economic, Children and Youth and Indigenous - were addressed at an ABS conference held in Perth. Outcomes from the conference will provide input to the formulation of national work programs and locally based projects.

I look forward to the challenges that 2008 will bring and the good relationships between the ABS and WA agencies in furthering informed decision making. In the meantime, I wish everyone, and your families, a safe and very happy festive season.

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Western Australian Statistical Indicators

WASI

Western Australian Statistical Indicators

(cat. no. 1367.5)

International Travel

There has been a large rise in Western Australians travelling overseas since 2003, underpinned by a rapidly expanding local economy. More people have departed WA for holidays, visiting friends or relatives, business, education, employment and conventions or conferences.

Overseas holiday travel increased substantially to Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand in particular, caused by a drop in travel to Indonesia after the Bali bombings in 2002 and 2005.

The number of Western Australians travelling overseas to visit friends or relatives surged to a ten-year high in 2006, with much more travel to the UK and New Zealand. Overseas business travel from the state grew strongly, particularly to the rapidly developing countries of China, India and the United Arab Emirates.

In comparison education travel has risen sharply since 2003, with more students departing to Singapore and New Zealand, along with convention or conference travel, predominantly to China. Employment travel abroad has shown only a modest increase due to the onset of the state's skills shortage.

Regional Housing in WA

Since 2000, WA has undergone significant economic and population growth spurred by major resource investment in the state. This has seen pressure placed on the WA housing market, both in Perth and regional areas.

The estimated resident population of WA in June 1996 was 1.8 million. By June 2006 it had increased 17% to just over 2 million persons. Population growth in Perth and regional WA was similar, though growth in the regions was inconsistent. The South-west and Pilbara regions were the highest growth areas of regional WA.

Between the 1996 and 2006 censuses the number of occupied private dwellings in Western Australia grew by 20%, from 629,303 dwellings in 1996 to 757,983 in 2006. Over the same period, the number of occupied private dwellings in Perth and regional WA increased by

20% and 21% respectively.

Separate houses accounted for 79% of all occupied private dwellings in WA. While Perth mirrored this tendency with 78% being occupied private dwellings, in regional WA the figure rose to 82%. Medium and high density housing accounted for 19% of WA's occupied private dwellings in 2006, however in regional WA only 11% of occupied private dwellings fell into this category.

For further information please follow the link below to the full WASI article, or contact Phil Smythe on (08) 9360 5224.

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Western Australian Indicator Framework System

WAIFS

Western Australian Indicator Framework System

What is WAIFS?

The Western Australian Indicator Framework System (WAIFS) is an exciting joint venture between the WA State Government and the ABS.

Initially conceived by Katrina Hopkins, Principal Planning Officer from the Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA), the WAIFS was developed in a bid to reduce duplication of effort and cost incurred by agencies trying to access similar statistics for their indicator frameworks.

For example, the DIA indicator framework, entitled Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage (OID), contains around 100 indicators such as life expectancy, labour force participation and health. It also measures anticipated levels of disadvantage through indicators such as birth weight, hearing impediments and early school engagement for indigenous children.

Many of these indicators are duplicated in other state government frameworks, such as the Well-being Indicators for Children and Youth (WICY), developed by the Office for Children and Youth (OCY) and the Indigenous Women's Report Card (IWRC), developed by the Office for Women's Policy (OWP).

"The duplication of effort really hit me when I kept bumping into ABS outposted officers who were trying to access similar administrative information for indicator frameworks they were developing", says Katrina. "At the same time, the Statistical Policy Committee was trying to compile an inventory of administrative data-holdings, and it appeared that there were obvious compatible objectives".

Stephen Jones, a DIA Information Analyst, found that approximately 80% of indicators used similar variables and that there was potential for substantial data collection savings.

What Are The Benefits?

The WAIFS concept can deliver significant benefits, particularly by reducing unplanned demand on data custodian agencies. Currently, these agencies receive multiple random requests for similar data throughout the year.

The WAIFS will consolidate the requests into one annual request for data, which can be built into future work programs.

The WAIFS aims to identify gaps and duplication within indicator frameworks, improve the quality and consistency of indicator statistics and improve access for WA State Government agencies to a “warehouse” of summary statistical information.

A prototype WAIFS search engine was developed in early 2006, and three indicator frameworks (WICY, IWRC and OID) were loaded to the system to demonstrate the value of the WAIFS.

Once the search engine is fully functional it will display indicators relating to key outcomes of State Government. All State Government staff will have online access to the most up-to-date and definitive data from one central location. This will assist in the development of policies, planning service delivery programs, responding to Ministerials or reporting against frameworks.

Future Directions

Over the next six months, development of the WAIFS will focus on expanding the number of frameworks and improving the system’s search functionality. The ABS will also increase the range of indicators, develop procedures to update indicators and enhance the user interface.

To access the test version of the WAIFS, go to <http://www.dia.wa.gov.au> (note, only staff from WA State Government agencies can download the data).

If your agency has a framework that could be incorporated into the WAIFS, or you would like more general information, please contact Lesley Martin on 9360 5320.

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Census: Second Release Results

Census Second Release

Results and Summary

Second Release Results

On 25 October 2007, the Australian Bureau of Statistics published second release data from the 2006 Census.

The statistics focussed on Australia’s workforce and industry changes, level of education and internal migration. This data is available free on the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au> through 2006 Census products such as QuickStats, MapStats, Census Tables and Community Profiles.

Education in WA

Current Students

In 2006, 22% of Western Australians (437,200 people) were attending an educational institution.

Almost 290,000 children and young people attended school in WA at the time of the 2006

Census. The majority attended a Government school (59%). Government schools used to educate more students ten years ago. In 1996, 76% of primary students attended a Government school, compared to 70% in 2006. For secondary students, the figures dropped from 66% in 1996 to 58% in 2006.

Of the 73,100 people attending university, 57% were women, and 41% were over 25 years of age. There were 40,800 people attending a technical or further educational institution (including TAFE); of these 51% were women, and 52% were aged under 25.

Educational Qualifications

In 2006, 53% of people in WA aged 15 years or over (831,600 people) had completed at least one non-school qualification. More women than men have completed university courses in WA. In 2006, 15% of women aged over 15 years (120,900) held a bachelor degree or higher, compared with 14% (104,700) of men.

The type of qualifications varied between different statistical divisions (SD) in WA. In the Perth SD, 13% of people held a bachelor degree or higher and a further 14% held a Certificate. In the Pilbara SD, 7% held a bachelor degree or higher and 17% held a Certificate. In 2006, the three most commonly held qualifications in WA were those in Teaching (6.5%), Business and Management (5.1%) and Building (4.6%).

Workforce Analysis

Of Western Australians aged 15 years and over, 60% were employed during the week before the 2006 Census. This data confirms the state's strong labour market, as indicated by the Labour Force publication (cat. no. 6202.0). Western Australia had the highest proportion of employed persons of all the states, except the territories of ACT (67%) and NT (60%).

Census data recorded an unemployment rate of 3.8% for WA, which was slightly higher than the Labour Force data for August 2006 (3.3%). Compared to other states and territories, WA's unemployment rate was the second lowest in Australia behind the ACT (3.4%).

Local Government Areas (LGAs) in WA that experienced the strongest employment growth also recorded strong population growth. The City of Perth had the largest growth of employed persons (183.0%), with a population increase of those aged 15 years and older of 142.5%. This was well above the WA average of 30.6% increase in employed persons and a 26.0% increase in population of those aged 15 years and older.

Western Australians are working longer. The average number of hours worked per week of all employees was 36, matching the national average. The mean number of hours for full-time employees (those working 35 or more hours per week) was 46 hours per week. In the Pilbara and South Eastern regions employees worked an average of 42 and 41 hours per week respectively. The higher average is probably the result of large amounts of shift work for mining projects in these areas.

Of employed persons living in the Perth SD, 3% reported that they worked outside this area. Of these employees, 15% reported that they worked in the Mandurah LGA; 9% in the East Pilbara LGA and 9% in the Leonora LGA. Of employees usually living and working in the Perth SD, 18% reported working in the City of Perth.

Internal Migration

In the 2006 Census, 712,900 or 36% of people living in WA reported that they had moved since 2001. Most remained in the same Statistical Division (SD) (72%), 17% moved to a different SD within WA, and 9% moved interstate. Internal migration in WA differed between regions. Almost all persons (96%) who live in Perth also lived in Perth five years ago. In the

Pilbara region, 20% had previously lived in Perth and 5% had previously lived in the South West SD.

WA Industry Changes

Industry and occupation groups in WA have changed dramatically over the last ten years. The mining boom has resulted in 75% employment growth in this industry from 1996 to 2006, closely followed by the Construction Industry (67%). Declining employment in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (6.5%) reflects the impact of drought conditions, though the national decline in these areas was much larger (down 13%).

The employment boom in WA has also resulted in growth in high skill occupations. In 2006, professional occupations increased by 47%. Occupational groups comprising professionals include Business, Human Resources and Marketing, Engineering and Science, Education and Health, ICT and Legal, Social and Welfare. All occupation groups showed an increase from the 1996 Census, except for Advanced Clerical and Service Workers, which includes Bookkeepers, Secretaries and Insurance Agents.

For further information about Census products or to obtain unpublished Census data, please contact Amy Gardos, Census Dissemination Manager on 9360 5391.

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ABS Website Services

ABS Website

Services We Provide

RSS Notification Service

The ABS website has expanded its services to provide statistical headlines for daily releases in Really Simple Syndication (RSS) format.

RSS is an XML format which provides an easy way to know when there are changes in content on a website. It offers an easy way for you to view short descriptions and headlines from the ABS website, together with a link to the full version of the main features to be displayed on your web page or RSS reader.

To use the ABS RSS you will need an RSS reader (in addition to your web browser). Search the web to find a free or inexpensive RSS reader. Type 'RSS newsreader' into a search engine, or visit the Google RSS directory. Once you have downloaded and installed a reader, follow its instructions for adding ABS RSS as a new channel. Where you are prompted, please enter the URL located on the RSS help section on the ABS website.

Please make sure that your reader is configured to look for updates no more frequently than twice a day. ABS headlines are updated once a day at 11:30 a.m, Canberra time. If you wish to publish our headlines on your website or intranet please acknowledge the ABS as the source of these headlines and be aware of ABS copyright conditions.

The use of RSS saves ABS website viewers from having to repeatedly visit the ABS web site to check for new content - in this way it is similar to the ABS' email notification service.

For additional information regarding the ABS use of RSS, or for assistance in utilising RSS on your system, please contact the National Information Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

Email Notification Service

The ABS has developed a free Email Notification Service which will automatically alert you whenever there is a statistical release related to a topic in your selected area of interest. You can register for the service from a link on the ABS home page under the Statistical Releases section.

A product list with check boxes allows you to register for one topic, many topics or all ABS releases. For example, to subscribe to the electronic version of Stats Talk WA, click on the 'Free Email Notification Service' icon on the ABS homepage and then click on the 'New Subscription' link.

Following this, click on the grey 'Advanced' tab (next to the green 'Basic' tab) and then select the '13. Year books and other multi-subject products' option from the 'Choose a sub-topic..' drop-down menu. Then press the grey 'Go' button to the right of this. From here, tick the '1304.5 - Stats Talk WA' check box and then press the grey 'Add' button below the list of publications.

From here, scroll down and type your email address where requested and press the 'Submit' button. A confirmation screen will appear to confirm the subscription. Click the grey 'Yes' button to approve the subscription. You will then be sent a confirmation email, which must be returned to enable the ABS to activate the subscription. Querying and unsubscribing follow similar processes.

Enquiries regarding the email notification service should be sent through the Subscription Support link located at the bottom of the email notification page which will generate an email. A reply will be quickly forwarded back to you.

For further information please contact the National Information Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

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Statistical News

Statistical News

Developments in ABS Statistics

Australian Exporters

On 13 November, the ABS released 'Number and Characteristics of Australian Exporters, 2006-07' (cat. no. 5368.0.55.006). This product uses data sourced from the Australian Customs Service and the ATO in addition to the ABS.

Previously, the ABS released articles on the number and characteristics of International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia (cat no. 5368.0). An article detailing a new methodology for deriving the counts of Australian exporters was issued on 7 April 2006. For further information, contact Jennifer Humphrys on (02) 6252 5409.

Business Characteristics Statistics

Summary data from the annual Business Characteristics Survey (BCS) relating to the incidence of IT use and innovation in business were released in Summary of IT Use and Innovation in Australian Business, 2005-06 (cat. no. 8166.0) on 19 November. Data are available at Industry and Employment Size levels and include Internet use; Broadband

connectivity; Web presence; Internet commerce; and measures of Innovation by type and status.

More detailed estimates have been published for Business Use of Information Technology (cat. no. 8129.0) on 7 December 2007 and, early in 2008, Selected Characteristics of Australian Business (cat. no. 8167.0) will be released. Following on from these releases, more detailed information in spreadsheet format will be made available via the ABS website. For further information contact Peter Hodgson on (08) 9360 5367.

Children and Youth

The Children and Youth Statistical Portal (CYSP) is the initial pilot project for the National Data Network (NDN), providing an online service that improves access to information on children and youth. It was released on 8 October 2007, and includes discovery metadata and a web link to each information resource.

Agencies that have contributed to the Portal include the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Medicare, the Australian Drug Foundation, Australian Transport Safety Bureau, Institute of Criminology, the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society and the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research.

The CYSP is accessible from <<http://portals.nationaldatanetwork.org/childrenandyouth>>, and a discussion forum is available where users of children and youth statistics can discuss relevant issues.

Agencies interested in more information about the Portal are encouraged to contact Lorraine Cornehlis on (02) 6252 6079.

Service Industry Surveys

The ABS is planning to conduct surveys on Nursing homes, Aged care, Child care, Residential care, and Non-residential care for the 2008-09 financial year. The Goods and Services National Statistics Centre will commence consultation with relevant stakeholders which will continue until the middle of 2008.

The aim of this consultation is to develop a common understanding between the ABS and key clients regarding the purpose of each survey and the survey requirements relative to its purpose (eg. content, accuracy, scope, implementation, output).

For the purpose of identifying relevant stakeholders for consultations in the broad development phase, the national centre will soon commence contacting those organisations that made relevant submissions to the 2005 Service Industry Survey Forward Work Program review.

For further information, contact Melanie Taylor on (02) 6252 7495 or <service.industries.program@abs.gov.au>.

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Client Liaison

Client Liaison Summary of Events

ESCG and SSCG Meetings

Representatives from state government agencies met with the ABS on 7 December at the combined Economic and Social Consultative Group (ESCG and SSCG) meeting. The agenda included several presentations and a discussion of strategic statistical issues.

David Smith from the Department of Treasury and Finance outlined the relationship between the two consultative groups and the Statistical Policy Committee (SPC) and directions into the future.

Mike Wilson of the Department of Industry and Resources gave a presentation on the Western Australian Mineral and Petroleum Statistics Digest and Kylie Armstrong from Landgate talked to the group about the Shared Land Information Platform (SLIP).

STSS Conference

On 31 October and 1 November, the WA ABS office hosted the annual State and Territory Statistical Services (STSS) conference.

The conference provided an opportunity for senior officers from all ABS offices to develop strategies aimed at improving statistics in key areas including demographic and economic statistics for sub-state regions; children and youth; and improving statistical information about the Indigenous population.

The conference allowed for information sharing on strategic projects being undertaken across the ABS.

Projects demonstrated included the WA Indicator Framework System (WAIFS), and the National Data Network (NDN) - Children and Youth Statistical Portal.

2011 Census

During 19 and 20 November, the ABS conducted a series of seminars in Perth to outline directions for the next Census in 2011 and to address any questions.

The seminars were based on the 'Information Paper:Census of Population and Housing: ABS Views on Content and Procedures, 2011' (cat. no. 2007.0).

Users of Census data and interested members of the public are invited to make submissions or recommendations on desired changes to any aspect of the Census. Submissions can be lodged online, by email, or in hardcopy.

The submission form, as well as information and guidelines about making a submission, is available from <www.abs.gov.au/2011censusviews>. Submissions must be lodged by 31 March 2008.

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Recent Releases

Recent Releases

Publications of Interest

Publication Title

ABS Catalogue

	Number
What's New in Regional Statistics, Dec 2007	1386.0
Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing: ABS Views on Content and Procedures, 2011	2007.0
Census Dictionary, 2006	2901.0
Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2007	3101.0
Population by Age and Sex, Aust. States & Territories, Jun 2007	3201.0
Short-term Visitor Arrival Estimates, Aust, Oct 2007	3401.0.55.001
Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices, Mar 2007	4602.0
Australian National Accounts, Sep 2007	5206.0
Number and Characteristics of Australian Exporters, 2006-07	5368.0.55.006
Labour Force, Australia, Nov 2007	6202.0
Labour Price Index, Australia Sep 2007	6345.0
Business Use of Information Technology, 2005-06	8129.0
Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, Jun 2003 to Jun 2006	8165.0
Summary of IT Use and Innovation in Australian Business, 2005-06	8166.0
Mineral & Petroleum Exploration, Australia, Sep 2007	8412.0

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WA Training

WA ABS Training Sessions

Information and Course dates

The ABS provides a range of training courses that teach practical skills for high quality statistical collections and analysing statistical data.

We can teach you how to:

- Use statistics in decision making;
- Design surveys / questionnaires;
- Analyse statistical data; and
- Use data to write reports.

Courses are run by experienced ABS staff at the ABS Perth office, at your offices, or in your region. In addition to statistical training, the ABS provides professional statistical consultancy services.

FREE TWO HOUR SEMINAR - "Easy access to free ABS data."

Seminar dates	Registration closing date
12 February	6 February
12 March	5 March
16 April	9 April
14 May	7 May
11 June	4 June

HALF-DAY WORKSHOPS - \$300

Includes morning tea.

"Using ABS Datacubes in SuperTable"

Registration Closing Date: 27 February 2008

Workshop Date: 18 March 2008

TWO-DAY COURSES - \$750

Includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

"Analysing Survey Data Made Simple"

Registration Closing Date: 30 January

Course Date: 13 & 14 February

"Turning Data into Information"

Registration Closing Date: 6 May

Course Date: 20 & 21 May

"Basic Survey Design"

Registration Closing Date: 27 May

Course Date: 10 & 11 June

For more information regarding training sessions, please contact Phillip Punyanitya on (08) 9360 5237, or email <training@abs.gov.au>

All our online data is now Free to download, visit <www.abs.gov.au>

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Next Edition

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Issue 25: March quarter, 2008

The March quarter edition of the Stats Talk WA newsletter will provide an update on ABS client activity in Western Australia. In addition to this, the newsletter will highlight relevant information on new statistical developments, projects, publications, seminars and training sessions.

About this Release

Stats Talk is a newsletter produced by the Western Australian office of the ABS. It provides information about new developments, publications, seminars, training and reviews